

# BRAVO ▽ BULLETIN

Serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Communities

Fall 2001, Volume 5, #3

## BRAVO releases domestic violence report

BRAVO documented 91 cases of domestic violence among central Ohio Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people in 2000, a 4% increase over the 87 cases reported in 1999. Nationally, 4,048 cases were documented, an increase of nearly 30%. These statistics were compiled by BRAVO and other member organizations of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), for their annual report, *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Domestic Violence in 2000*.

The increase in reports to BRAVO is consistent with a rise in the number of Central Ohio reports in previous years. Rebecca Gurney, BRAVO Domestic Violence Program Coordinator believes that the rise reflects an increase in awareness about support services for LGBT survivors of violence, rather than indicating increased violence among LGBT people.

Locally, 48 reports came from females, 42 from males, and this year there were no reports from transgender-identified people. Most people who reported incidents were between 30-44 years old. There was a substantial decrease in reports from people age 45 and older (9 reports, down from 20 in 1999). 51 reports were made by whites, 12 by African American people, and 6 by people who identified as multi-racial. All other racial

ethnic categories had 4 reports or fewer.

"These demographics point to who is being reached by our services, and all domestic violence services in Columbus," said Gurney. White people in the middle age range who identify as gay or lesbian represent a group with more access to these services than other groups, she said. "Now we need to find more ways of letting others know that BRAVO is here for them," she said.

Nationally, the largest number of reported cases came from major coastal metropolitan areas including Los Angeles (2,146), San Francisco (691), Boston (371) and New York (471). Increased reporting in these cities can be attributed to the visibility of services specifically for LGBT survivors of violence and the availability of public funds for these programs.

"We should be careful about how these numbers are interpreted," said Gloria McCauley, BRAVO Executive Director. "They should be seen in the context of the communities and regions that gathered them. Each agency's accessibility to domestic violence survivors varies according to its resources, staff, and familiarity with LGBT people."

Historically, domestic violence among LGBT people is dramatically underre-

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### *Family violence: hate crime in disguise?*

Inclusive legal definitions of family are needed, according to *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Domestic Violence in 2000*, a report released by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs in July 2001. In Ohio we are fortunate to have domestic violence laws that recognize persons "living as married;" this allows our queer families access to these laws.

However, critical changes are needed, in terms of how we as a community understand and deal with domestic violence. Although the majority of incidents reported to BRAVO's domestic violence program were violence and abuse between lesbian and gay intimate partners, several reports blur the lines between domestic violence and incidents that might otherwise be categorized as hate crimes. Some scenarios from the last year include:

A married woman in the process

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Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization

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# BRAVO BULLETIN

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BRAVO works to eliminate violence perpetrated on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identification through prevention, advocacy, violence documentation and survivor services, both within and on behalf of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities.

**All reports confidential. All services free.**

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## A message from the President - by Chris Cozad

*This letter was submitted to the Columbus Dispatch. At press time, it had not been printed.*

The Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO) and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) call for our nation to resist a growing tide of anti-Islamic, Arab, and Middle Eastern sentiment in reaction to the recent acts of terrorism. While the entire nation and people across the globe are devastated by the human tragedy resulting from these violent acts, BRAVO and NCAVP are asking that in our anger we not strike out against neighbors and co-workers who may be or are perceived to be of Middle Eastern descent or of the Islamic faith.

We express our support and compassion for the victims of these terrible events and offer our condolences to their survivors and loved ones. We know that life will be irrevocably changed for the survivors of these attacks, and we stand by the victims of the violence and join in the calls for justice. However, we also caution against victimizing others in our response to this devastation. It is a time for us to reach out to one another with compassion and healing and not attack others out of revenge, or because of intolerance, or misdirected anger.

*"As lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and people of transgender experience, we know the destruction that stereotypes and reactionary violence can wreak... We therefore implore our fellow Americans to exercise restraint and tolerance during this most troubling time for our nation and the world."*

As lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and people of transgender experience working day-to-day with victims of hate violence, discrimination, and bias, we know the destruction that stereotypes and reactionary violence can wreak on individual human lives and entire communities. We therefore again implore our fellow Americans to exercise restraint and tolerance. We encourage each person to seek healing and peace in their communities, in their faith, in their families and in themselves during this most troubling time for our nation and the world, and not resort to acts of violence towards our neighbors.

## Surf over to BRAVO!



Now under construction, the BRAVO web site will be up and running soon.  
 Check us out at [www.bravoavp.com](http://www.bravoavp.com)

# BRAVO volunteers work for the Human Race

By: K. Pinkleton

Once again, the volunteers, staff and supporters of BRAVO stepped out into the sun and onto the downtown pavement on July 15<sup>th</sup> for the annual Human Race event sponsored by FIRSTLINK. Donations earned by BRAVO in this event help us to provide services for our community.

This year we had 7 walkers, some bikers, and also supporters who solicited money from donors. Along with many other non-profit organizations, BRAVO hosted a table to distribute whistles and information. We were blessed with great weather, good (and free!) snacks, energetic music and a spirit of goodwill from

all those that participated in the "race," representing their agencies. As a first time Human Race participant, I was amazed at the community support I witnessed. I came away with a much less cynical take on the Central Ohio community - our city is blessed with so many dedicated and caring folks.

It was great to see BRAVO supporters in attendance, wearing our t-shirts and spreading the word. Those of you who missed it this year will get another chance next year - stay tuned. The Human Race provides an excellent opportunity for BRAVO to raise much needed funds while increasing our visibility to the Central Ohio community.

The money raised from this event and

the success of BRAVO's participation in the Human Race was made possible only because of the participants that dedicated their time, energy and enthusiasm to the event. I would like to thank the following individuals who helped out in numerous ways in the 2001 Human Race-BRAVO couldn't have participated in this event without their support: *Human Race Walkers and Bikers:* Caelen, Shelley, Heidi, Joshua, & Kellye; *Tables Representatives:* Gloria, Rebecca, Amy, Alec, Ed, & Bob; *Pre-Event Planners:* Gloria, Rebecca, Aaron, Megan, & Bob.

## Thank-you!

**Special thanks to the following businesses and supporters who have donated their time, energy, and support to BRAVO:**

- Todd Anglin of EXILE and The Columbus Eagle for hosting a benefit.
- James J. Barcus for getting our web page up and running.
- Bob and Joshua for displaying excellent catwalk skills at the COMIC benefit.
- COMIC, the sponsors of a BRAVO Benefit.
- Dr. Judy Kimberly of Luminesce Consulting who donated office equipment.
- Natural Living for holding "BRAVO Day".
- Ed Pfeiffer for all of his work at the BRAVO Benefit.
- Summit Station, Zach, Sable Coat, Maxine Fisher and Sharon the Karaoke gal for a fun benefit.
- Vulcans, for hosting a bar night benefit.
- Wild Oats Community Market for sponsoring BRAVO in the "Wooden Nickel Program".

## Vigil honored slain gay teen

BRAVO and Stonewall Columbus hosted a candle light vigil on Thursday, August 9 at the Goodale Park Gazebo to honor Fred Martinez, Jr., a murdered Colorado gay Native American youth. The vigil was one of many events held across the country to celebrate his life and struggles, and bring attention to the continued concern for safety of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

Martinez was a 16-year-old transgender, Navajo, gay, Two Spirit youth from Cortez, Colorado. He was last seen on June 16th, and was found murdered on June 21st. Police did not contact his mother, Pauline Mitchell, until June 25th despite repeated calls to their office reporting her son missing. On July 3rd, Shaun Murphy, 18, was arrested and has been charged with second-degree murder. Vigils and events were held across the country the weekend before the pre-trial was held in this case.

"Two Spirit" is a contemporary term that is used to describe a member of a Native American community who expresses both masculine and feminine gender identities. Many Two Spirit blend the two genders, instead of choosing one or the other. Different tribes have different terms - winkte in Lakota, Nadleeh in Navajo, hee-man-eh in Cheyenne. Two Spirit people have been honored and have served as leaders in their communities.

Several community organizations contributed to the vigil to celebrate the life of Martinez and to renew the commitment in this community to eliminating violence. BRAVO Domestic Violence Program Coordinator Rebecca Gurney, and representatives from Broad Street Methodist Church, New Creation MCC, OSU American Indian Student Services, PFLAG and Stonewall Columbus spoke to a crowd of more than 60 about working toward ending violence in all minority communities.

# NEWS IN BRIEF news in brief NEWS IN BRIEF news in brief NEWS IN BRIEF

## BRAVO thanks the Stultzes

Jan and Taylor Stultz, BRAVO Advisory Council Members since the organization was established in 1996, are leaving us, as Taylor has recently retired from his position at Muskingum College. We wish both well, and thank them for their years of support.

## Wild Oats sponsors fundraiser

BRAVO participated in the Wild Oats Community Market Wooden Nickel Program from February through July 2001. The Wooden Nickel Program helps support local non-profit organizations like BRAVO by allowing customers the opportunity to donate a "wooden nickel" in lieu of taking a shopping bag. This program promotes environmentally sound practices while helping agencies raise money. During the 6-month course of BRAVO's participation in the program, we raised almost \$300! Thanks to all BRAVO supporters who shopped at Wild Oats and dropped your "nickels" in the BRAVO box.

## Parks report released

Eighteen months of hard work culminated this summer in the release of a report on the topic of men having sex in Columbus City Parks. BRAVO Board President Chris Cozad served on the coalition that generated this report, which included LGBT community groups, the Columbus Safety Department, the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Columbus Health Department. Formation of a broad based community wide group to address such a problem is virtually unprecedented. The group took a comprehensive and exhaustive look at this issue and generated a series of recommendations on reducing incidents of illegal behavior in City parks, which were presented to Mayor Michael Coleman. Recommendations cover a range of is-

suues, from unequal enforcement and overzealous prosecution to personal health and safety and internalized homophobia. This and the success of the model is something of which the City of Columbus can be proud. The implementation of the recommendations will take time; a permanent task force is being appointed by the Mayor to direct the effort. Cozad has agreed to serve on that task force.

## BRAVO seeking interns

Are you looking for an internship that offers the chance to work in a social change agency serving the LGBT community? Would you like the chance to work in the anti-violence field? Think about interning with BRAVO. An internship with BRAVO offers clinical and/or administrative work, flexible hours and a variety of tasks. If you are an undergraduate or graduate student looking for an internship, please consider BRAVO.

## Get pierced for BRAVO

Piercology, 872 N. High in the Short North, is hosting a unique fundraiser for BRAVO. They will donate \$3 from each piercing between Oct. 22 and Oct. 28 to BRAVO. BRAVO and Piercology will be collaborating on a fact sheet that demystifies piercing as a life choice and debunks myths about piercing being self-destructive behavior. So if you are thinking about getting something pierced, please consider doing it during this time period and supporting BRAVO.

## Conference for men slated

IMPACT Safety Programs will be offering a conference for men, February 8, 9, and 10, to explore the issues related to male victimization and violence. The conference will focus on learning skills of assessment, de-escalation, and physical self-defense that can add confidence in the face of threatening situations and can help reduce the fear and anxiety as-

sociated with threats of violence. It will foster learning on how to deal with the emotional aspects of surviving violence as a part of healing and ways to correct the damage that men inflict upon themselves by trying to live up to their own stories and stereotypes. For more information and to register, please contact IMPACT Safety Programs at 614-238-0450. Chemical dependency counselors and prevention specialists are eligible for 23 BRCH's.

## Fun at Summit Station

Summit Station hosted a Karaoke benefit for BRAVO on Saturday Sept. 22, 2001. Not only did the usual Summit Station crowd sing their hearts for BRAVO, but we were also treated to special surprise performances by Maxine, Fisher and Sable Coat. Sable donated all her guest bartending tips too, as did Summit Station manager Zach, and BRAVO Board Prez Chris Cozad. Everyone had a lovely evening and BRAVO sends special thanks to Zach and Sharon (the Karaoke Gal) from Summit Station and to Sable, Maxine and friends for their performances and support of BRAVO.

## Busy Summer for BRAVO

Community events kept folks at BRAVO hopping. We tabled and marched at the Columbus Pride celebration, staffed the Stonewall Fair Booth for a day, and held a self defense workshop at the Ohio Lesbian Festival. At these and other summer activities, we handed out more than 2000 safety tip cards and whistles.

## EMERGENCY PHONE LIST

### IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL 911

**BRAVO:** 268-9622

### AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

Columbus AIDS Task Force: 299-2437

Ohio AIDS Coalition: 444-1683

Project Open Hand: 221-5683

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

CHOICES crisis line: 224-4663

### DISCRIMINATION:

Community Relations Commission: 645-1993

### LGBT COMMUNITY REFERRALS:

Stonewall Columbus: 299-7764

### YOUTH:

Kaleidoscope Youth Coalition 294-7886

### LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Columbus Police Department  
Bias Crimes Unit  
(LGBT Police Liaison  
Detective Wes Johnson): 645-4910  
ext.113

Franklin County Sheriff: 462-3333

OSU Police: 292-2121

### SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Rape Crisis Line (SARNCO): 267-7020

OSU Rape Education  
Prevention Program: 292-0479

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

Women's Outreach for Women: 291-3639

Drummers GLB AA Groups: 253-5001

Pride Institute: 1-800-547-7433

### SUICIDE PREVENTION:

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 221-5445

## Family violence - cont. from page 1

of coming out reported being physically assaulted by her husband when she sought a divorce to pursue a relationship with a woman. Although their relationship had been verbally abusive, it was not physically violent until her identity as a lesbian was made clear.

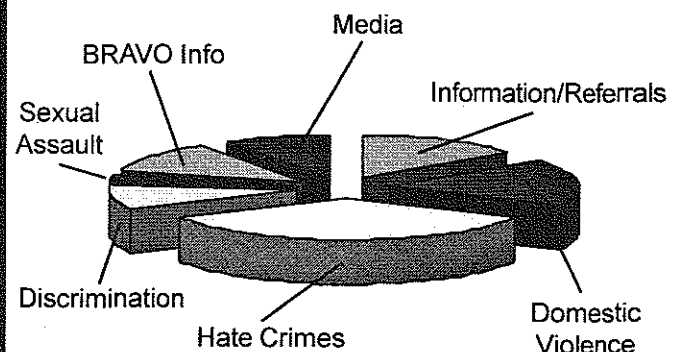
A young bisexual woman reported an evolving pattern of violence and stalking from her gay male roommate. A bisexual woman reported that her estranged husband was using her association with the leather/SM community to be physically violent, and had threatened to use disclosure of her identity to gain sole custody of their children. A lesbian woman reported that her partner's teenage daughter threatened her with weapons, locked her in the basement for long periods of time, and threatened to kill her.

Each of these cases makes it clear that bias-motivated violence and domestic violence are often intertwined. As much as homophobia is a motivator for street harassment and stranger attacks, it is one more tactic that an abuser can use to isolate and control another person. We can make our communities safer by recognizing violence when we see it, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a hateful neighbor or stranger, or a member of our own community.

## BRAVO answers the call

BRAVO received an average of 220 calls per month between April and July 2001. Many were about running the organization; three-fourths of the calls were related to administration and networking with other agencies. The remaining 198 calls can be categorized as follows: hate crimes information and documentation (70), domestic violence information and documentation (35), information and referrals (28), BRAVO information (25), discrimination 18, media (18), and sexual assault (4). These categories are shown in the pie chart below.

Telephone Calls April-July 2001





# SAFETY PAGE

## Staying Safe on the Internet

*Here are some tips on safe ways to meet new friends on line:*

**1. Go at your own pace.**

*Don't let anyone rush you. Start by chatting, then if you feel comfortable to do so, move on to email. Lay the groundwork with chatting and email before any personal meetings take place.*

**2. You don't have to give your email address to the whole chat room.**

*Instead of posting your email address in a chat room, request that this be done via IM (instant messaging) or PVT (private talk).*

**3. Be stingy with personal information.**

*Think twice about giving info on the world wide web about your life in the world wide world. If you give someone your address, phone number, or place of employment, they may show up there before you are ready.*

**4. If you agree to a phone call, block caller ID.**

*Stay in control of the situation – be the caller, and use \*67 to block your caller ID information.*

**5. If you decide to meet someone, do it in a public place & tell a friend.**

*Choose a familiar coffee house, restaurant or bar. Tell a friend that you are meeting an on-line acquaintance and agree to call your friend at a pre-arranged time (then be sure to call them!). Give your friend the person's email address and all that you know about them.*

**6. Set your own boundaries.**

*You know where your comfort zone is – stay there. Don't be pressured to divulge information or do things that take you out of that zone. Cyber sex is ok for some people and not ok for others. Know which type of person you are.*

**7. As with staying safe in any situation – trust your instincts.**

*Pay attention to red flags. If it feels like something isn't right, it probably isn't.*

### Remember to play it safe...

*Sometimes internet interactions lead people into unsafe situations. BRAVO has documented incidents of internet-related harassment, assault, and robbery.*

*Remember, you can chat on-line with someone for days and still not know them – it's nothing like a face to face assessment. Play it safe, and if you run into trouble, call BRAVO at 268-9622.*

## The faces of BRAVO

The BRAVO staff would like to thank Amy Friedrich for all of the hard work and dedication she demonstrated this summer. She gave tirelessly of herself and her talents, and we could not have survived without her - particularly through PRIDE month and the Human Race. Thanks for everything Amy!

As student at the Ohio State University, summer intern Amy Friederich has been active on a multitude of fronts. These include the LGBT Awareness Week coordinating committee, Take Back the Night, the International Women's Day organizing committee, the Women's Month Celebration at OSU, and the Women Student Services Advisory Council. She was co-president of the Association of Women Students, and in this role attended the National Organization for Women Lesbian Rights Summit in Washington, D.C. Other local groups that Amy has participated in include Anti-Racist Action, the Feminist Majority and Peer Poor.

During Amy's internship, she served as Volunteer Coordinator, and signed up many new BRAVO volunteers. "We had great Volunteer Team Nights where volunteers got to meet each other and to actually put a face to that voice on the end of the phone or in emails that keeps asking them to do stuff," she said.

A career goal for Amy is to be a secondary teacher and to have an influence on the quality and diversity of the education of young people. "Most of the activism that I do is in some way connected to anti-violence, with a focus on educating about oppression and privilege," she said.

*We'll miss you Amy. Good luck in all you do.*

We are pleased to announce that we have a new intern who will serve as Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Barret. Rachel has graciously agreed to help us out with coordination of our Volunteer Team. She will be in the office on Thursday mornings and is looking forward to working with the Volunteer Team Members. If you are a current volunteer and would like to come in, help out or have some ideas to share with us, please contact Rachel. For those who haven't volunteered in the past, but would like to support BRAVO by volunteering, please give us a call. For more information, please email Rachel at [ceaseviolence@yahoo.com](mailto:ceaseviolence@yahoo.com). Welcome aboard, Rachel!

## Report released - cont. from page 1

ported due to actual and perceived barriers to accessing support services, including domestic violence shelters and the criminal justice system. Research estimates that 1 in 4 LGBT people will experience domestic violence, which is consistent with the number of heterosexual people who report domestic violence.

# Volunteer corner

### If you want to...

*Work on ending violence against the LGBT community...  
...meet new and interesting people...  
...and have a lot of fun...*

### Come to BRAVO Volunteer Nights

The third Thursday of every month is Volunteer Night at BRAVO. People gather for food, fun and volunteer tasks, such as literature distribution, mailings, and assembling safety whistles. Join us on the following dates:

#### Volunteer Night dates:

October 18  
November 15  
December 20

BRAVO Volunteer nights begin at 7 p.m. and are held at the BRAVO office, 4041 N. High St., Suite 101 (enter from back parking lot). For more information, call us at 268-9622.

### Phone volunteers needed for extended hours:

BRAVO will offer evening hours soon - we'll be taking calls between the hours of 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays. If you would like to be trained to take reports and assist callers, please call us at 268-9622. We'll be offering a training in January.

### Thank You!

Without volunteers, BRAVO's mission could not be accomplished. We would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals who have donated extensive amounts of their time and energy to the cause:

Rachel Barret  
Megan Benadum  
Briana  
Caelen Cozad McCauley  
Bob Eberhard  
Jason  
Jesse  
Pat McCarthy

# BRAVO: serving the community

BRAVO offers education, training and resources for members of LGBT communities and for those who provide services to LGBT people. Our presentations raise awareness about cultural differences among sexual minorities. Our self defense classes offer basic techniques on self defense for all people, regardless of size or physical ability. The following activities were logged by BRAVO staff May - September 2001:

## May:

- 2 Days in May Conference presentation
- Beacon Against Violence United Way event
- Capital University class presentation
- Central Ohio Sexual Assault Task Force presentation
- Columbus Police Academy Training Meeting
- Crystal Club Street Safety workshop
- Elder Abuse Rally at the Statehouse
- GBT Self-Defense class at the University of Cincinnati
- Natural Living "Community Outreach Day" for BRAVO
- NCAVP Roundtable in Michigan
- Mahoning Co. Task Force on DV in Youngstown
- OSU-SGSS Awards
- Pickaway Correctional Institution "Oasis Program"
- "Queer Radio" interview in Madison, Wisconsin
- Take Back the Night at OSU
- Westland High School "Anti-Violence Information Fair"
- Women's Health and Beauty Fair/OSU

## June:

- Anti-Stalking Conference Bat-N-Rouge
- Columbus Police Training
- Columbus PRIDE March/ Festival
- Columbus PRIDE Ecumenical Service Security
- CUB Bear Camp event at Union Station Video Cafe
- DV Conference - YWCA Cincinnati
- A Matter of Pride Conference

## July:

- Central Ohio Sexual Assault Task Force on SM/BD
- The Human Race
- Women's Outreach for Women - DV workshop

## August:

- COMIC event at Downtown Connection
- DV Community Update press conference at Whetstone
- Martinez Candlelight Vigil at Goodale Park
- Street Safety Seminar
- Stonewall Columbus Ohio StateFair Booth

## September:

- Cols. Police Department Recruit Training on diversity
- Franklin County Justice Unit tabling event
- Ohio Lesbian Festival - table and self defense class
- SARNCO Training
- Summit Station Benefit
- Women Coming Together Conference

## **BRAVO's wish list**

<i>Color copier</i>	<i>Zip drive</i>
<i>New 2-line phone</i>	<i>2-drawer file cabinet</i>
<i>Computer labels</i>	<i>Postage stamps</i>
<i>Poster frames (16x20)</i>	<i>Tools</i>
<i>Laminator</i>	<i>Laminator sheets</i>

**BRAVO's BIG wish request is to purchase a new display board (about \$300) to take to educational events. Please let us know if you can donate any of these items!**

**Yes, I want to contribute to BRAVO's work  
on ending violence  
against our communities!**

- ☐ Put me on your mailing list
- ☐ Call me to volunteer
- ☐ Accept my tax deductible gift of:

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **BRAVO, P.O. Box 82068, Columbus, Ohio 43202**